

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /028 R

66011

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 110222 TOSEC 040305

FOR LISBON FOR VICE PRESIDENT AND AMB YOUNG

FOLLOWING REPEAT LUSAKA 1300 ACTION SECSTATE  
INFO ABIDJAN DAR ES SALAAM GABORONE LONDON MAPUTO 13 MAY 77

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1300

ABIDJAN FOR AMBASSADOR LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH, ZA

SUBJ: FONMIN MWALE STATES ZAMBIA IS UNDER ATTACK THREAT FROM  
RHODESIA

SUMMARY: HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS LUSAKA WERE CONVOKED,  
INDIVIDUALLY OR IN GROUPS, BY FONMIN MWALE AFTERNOON MAY 13  
AND ALERTED TO THREAT BY IAN SMITH TO LAUNCH PREEMPTIVE  
RAIDS INTO ZAMBIA. PRESIDENT KAUNDA WILL ADDRESS THE NATION  
MONDAY TO WARN OF GRAVE PERIL. BRITISH HAS BEEN ASKED BY  
SMITH TO PASS ON TO KAUNDA RHODESIAN THREAT OF PREEMPTIVE  
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STRIKES IF ZAPU CONTINUED ITS PLAN TO LAUNCH AN OFFENSIVE  
AGAINST RHODESIA FROM ZAMBIA. END SUMMARY.

1. CHARGE MET ALONE WITH FONMIN MWALE MAY 13; HE IMMEDIATELY  
SAID THAT, ACCORDING TO A HIGHLY RELIABLE SOURCE, IAN SMITH  
WAS THREATENING TO MAKE PREEMPTIVE STRIKES INTO ZAMBIA.  
PRETEXT FOR SUCH STRIKES WOULD BE THAT ZAPU FORCES OPERATING

OUT OF CAMPS IN ZAMBIA WERE PLANNING TO LAUNCH AN OFFENSIVE AGAINST RHODESIA. THIS, SAID MWALE, IS TOTALLY UNTRUE. THERE ARE ONLY REFUGEE CAMPS IN ZAMBIA, AND THEY MIGHT POSSIBLY BE TAKEN FOR MILITARY TRAINING SITES IF ONE WERE PERFORMING AN AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE. EVERYONE KNEW THAT ZAMBIA WAS A PEACE LOVING COUNTRY WHICH WOULD NOT ATTACK ANYONE. HOWEVER, IF ATTACKED ZAMBIA WOULD DEFEND ITSELF.

2. ZAMBIA TOOK VERY SERIOUSLY SMITH'S THREAT GIVEN THE RAIDS CONDUCTED BY RHODESIAN FORCES AGAINST "PEACEFUL VILLAGES" IN MOZAMBIQUE. PRESIDENT KAUNDA WOULD ADDRESS THE NATION MONDAY MAY 16, ALERTING THE NATION TO THE PERIL IT FACES.

3. GRZ WAS BRINGING TO THE ATTENTION OF ALL EMBASSIES IN LUSAKA THE POSSIBILITY OF RHODESIAN ATTACKS BECAUSE THEY WOULD WANT TO ALERT THEIR GOVERNMENTS AND RESIDENTS IN ZAMBIA. FOR, IF THERE WERE AN ATTACK, NOT ONLY INNOCENT ZAMBIANS BUT INNOCENT FOREIGN RESIDENTS AS WELL WOULD SUFFER.

4. WHEN ASKED THE SOURCE OF HIS RELIABLE INFORMATION, MWALE SAID SMITH HAD PASSED HIS THREAT TO KAUNDA THROUGH THE BRITISH. HE SAID HE FOUND IT MOST STRANGE THAT THE BGITISH WOULD FIND THEMSELVES IN THE ROLE OF AN INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN A GOVERNMENT THAT THEY LABELED AS "REBEL" AND A LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT LIKE THAT OF ZAMBIA.

5. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER INFORMED THE CHARGE AFTER HE AND OTHER EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS HAD HAD THEIR SESSION WITH MWALE THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN HAD RECEIVED A MESSAGE  
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FROM SMITH THREATENING PREEMPTIVE ACTION FOR TRANSMITTAL TO KAUNDA. UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM OWEN, HIGH COMMISSION LUSAKA HAD PASSED THE MESSAGE WITHOUT COMMENT TO KAUNDA.

COMMENT: KAUNDA HAS FOR YEARS FEARED A RETALIATORY STRIKE FROM RHODESIA AGAINST ZAMBIA. IN RECENT STATEMENTS HE HAS PUBLICLY TAKEN THE POSITION THAT IN THE INTEREST OF THE ARMED STRUGGLE, ZAMBIA MUST TAKE THE RISK OF BEING A FOCUS OF SUCH ATTACKS. THERE HAVE BEEN RECENT REPORTS THAT ZAPU IS PLANNING TO LAUNCH A MAJOR OFFENSIVE FROM ZAMBIAN TERRITORY. KAUNDA'S LONG STANDING FEARS COUPLED WITH HIS KNOWLEDGE THAT ZAPU OFFENSIVES MAY BE CONTEMPLATED WOULD LEND CREDENCE IN HIS EYES TO SMITH'S THREAT OF A PREEMPTIVE ATTACK AND EXPLAIN HIS PLANNED ADDRESS TO THE NATION AND THE BRIEFING OF THE DIP CORPS.  
CLINGERMAN.  
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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LUSAKA WERE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, MOPS, RH, ZA  
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